

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, May 9, 2003*

## WITH NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED, CHIEF RAMSEY LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUE FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Chief Ramsey said this past week that he looks forward to continuing the work of improving the MPDC and making the District of Columbia a safer city, now that he and Mayor Williams have signed a Letter of Agreement extending Ramsey's appointment as Chief of the MPDC for another four years and nine months. In a statement, the Chief stated, "I am very pleased that Mayor Williams has demonstrated his confidence in my ability to continue leading our Police Department in new and positive directions. I look forward to working even more closely with the Mayor, the DC Council, members of our Department and especially our residents, as we go about the business of making DC a safer place to live and work. Working together, we have accomplished a lot in the past four years, but there are major challenges that lie ahead. I am confident that by pulling together as a police department, as a city and as a community we can achieve our common goal of building safer and more livable neighborhoods." The terms of the agreement provide Chief Ramsey with a salary increase to \$175,000 annually for each of the remaining years of his appointment, as well as a less than 1 percent increase in his annual pension annuity. The Chief has been paid \$150,000 a year for each of the last five years, with no pay increase during that period.

① The other terms of the agreement remain essentially the same. Read the Chief's complete statement at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2078>

① Mayor Williams' announcement of the new agreement can be found at:  
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=492&mon=200305>

## REMEMBER A FALLEN MPDC HERO DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Police officers from across the United States will be in DC during the week of May 9-16, for ceremonies to honor officers killed in the line of duty. National Police Week features a host of events, including a candlelight vigil on May 13th at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square and the Peace Officers Memorial Day Services on May 15th on the West Lawn of the US Capitol. To honor officers from the Washington, DC-Baltimore region who have been killed in the line of duty, the Fraternal Order of Police, DC Lodge #1 Auxiliary holds its 24th Annual Memorial Service on May 12th, at the fountain outside MPDC Headquarters. This year's ceremony recognizes seven area police officers who were killed in the line of duty during 2002 from the following departments: Baltimore City (2 officers), Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Sheriff's Department (2 officers), Virginia State Police and the US Park Police. The MPDC also maintains an on-line memorial to the 108 Metropolitan Police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the community. And the Department invites members of the community and the MPDC to submit personal remembrances in honor of the Department's fallen heroes.

① To read about the heroics of the MPDC officers killed in the line of duty, and to submit a remembrance, please visit:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/officers/officers.shtm>

① For a complete list of Police Week events, visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund website:  
<http://www.nleomf.com>

## STREET CLOSURES

National Police Week activities will require a number of street closures in downtown DC. Parking restrictions and temporary closures will affect streets near Judiciary Square, site of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and other sites throughout downtown.

① For information about these and other neighborhood street closings, visit the Street Closings page on the DC government website:  
[http://dc.gov/closures/closures\\_by\\_type.asp?type=4](http://dc.gov/closures/closures_by_type.asp?type=4)

## COMMUNITY INPUT SOUGHT ON PROPOSAL FOR REVISED PSAs

Beginning with the Mayor's Crime Forum II, residents will have the opportunity to review and comment on a proposal to strengthen the PSA structure and improve community policing in DC. Held on Saturday, May 10, at Scripture Cathedral, 810 O Street, NW, Crime Forum II is a follow-up session to the first Crime Forum held in January 2003. Crime Forum II includes Mayor Williams updating residents on progress made in addressing some of the key issues identified at the January session, plus a town hall discussion of crime and safety issues. In addition, Chief Ramsey introduces the community to proposed enhancements to the PSA (Police Service Area) model—including recommended changes to PSA boundaries. During breakout sessions at Crime Forum II, as well as during a series of follow-up meetings to be held in all seven police districts, residents will have a chance to offer their feedback and suggestions on the proposal. The proposed changes to the PSA boundaries are the result of an internal MPDC analysis that was mandated by the DC Council under legislation approved earlier this year. The proposal changes are designed to more closely align the PSAs with natural neighborhood boundaries and to enhance neighborhood patrols by providing additional staffing flexibility on each PSA.

## REGIONAL SMOOTH OPERATOR PROGRAM KICKS OFF

The MPDC and dozens of other law enforcement agencies are teaming up once again this spring and summer to put the brakes on aggressive driving in the Washington, DC region. The Smooth Operator program, initiated in 1997, strives to reduce aggressive driving by blanketing DC, Maryland and Virginia with four, one-week law enforcement waves, powerful radio ads, compelling bus back placards and news coverage. With more than 50 participating public agencies and private groups, including state and local law enforcement agencies, the 2003 campaign is reminding citizens of the many dangers and consequences of aggressive driving, including getting caught, serving jail time, or worse—injuring or killing someone. Previous campaigns have proved successful in catching aggressive drivers, as evidenced by the more than 219,000 citations given in 2002—compared to 62,000 aggressive driving citations issued in 1997. In addition, public awareness of such law enforcement efforts has increased dramatically from 38 percent in 2000 to 76 percent in 2002. Last year, nearly one in four area residents—one million impressions—saw or heard the Smooth Operator message. “We all are at risk of becoming aggressive drivers,” says Lt. Pat Burke, Traffic Safety Coordinator for the MPDC and the Smooth Operator law enforcement coordinator for this year's campaign. “And because it's so dangerous, we all need to think about the consequences. Saving lives is what this campaign is about and why it is so very needed.”

## NEWS & NOTES

**Seat Belt Mobilization.** The MPDC will once again participate in a nationwide effort to encourage seat belt use and secure children in age-appropriate safety restraints. The Operation ABC (America Buckles-up Children) Mobilization and “Click It or Ticket” campaign will run from May 19 through June 1, with a kickoff news conference on May 12. Details at <http://www.nsc.org/airbag.htm>

**“Operation Fight Back.”** The MPDC, other city agencies and community organizations are teaming up during May to tackle crime and disorder problems in neighborhoods in all seven police districts. The strategy involves a number of different approaches, including conducting safety checkpoints, serving arrest warrants, towing abandoned vehicles, cleaning up trash, carrying out building and business inspections, and more. View the schedule of “Fight Back” operations scheduled for May at <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2069>

① For more information about Crime Forum II, call the Mayor's Office of Community Outreach at (202) 442-8150 or visit: <http://dc.gov/mayor/news/advisory.asp?id=408&mon=200304>

① The proposed changes to the PSA structure are available at the MPDC website; residents and other community stakeholders are invited to submit comments via e-mail or in writing to MPD, Office of Organizational Development, 300 Indiana Ave., NW, Room 5140, Wash., DC, 20001.

① The PSAs are just one aspect of the “Policing for Prevention” strategy. For an explanation of MPD's community policing, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/plp/plp.shtm>

① Read more about the announcement of this year's campaign at: <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2077>

① For more information on Smooth Operator, including the MPDC's 2002 results, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides (as of 5/9/03)

- 2003: 89
- 2002: 76
- % Change: +15.8%

#### Arrests (week ending 5/3/03)

- Total: 847
- Drugs: 131
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 40
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 32

#### Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/29/03)

- Total: 645
- April: 169

#### Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/9/03)

- 2003: 16
- 2002: 22
- % Change: -27.3%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**